

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHWARK CYCLISTS ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2007**

19.00 at Blackfriars Settlement, 1-5 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RB

Attendees: Barry Mason (Co-ordinator), Alan Ball, Gwen Bondi, Alex Crawford (Campaigns; Bike Show, Resonance 104.4FM), Susan Crisp (Community Safety Team, Southwark Council), Richard Ellery, Alastair Hanton, Colin Hartridge-Price (Secretary), John Hearn, Gary Jones (Newsletter Editor), Gary Lingard, Tina Mason, Kit Reynolds (Webmaster), Ann Warren, Ray Welsh (Planning), Cheryl Williams. For item 2 – Koy Thomson (New CEO of the LCC)

Apologies received: Rebecca Lack, Roger Stocker.

Barry welcomed everyone, particularly those attending for the first time.

### 1. Discussion with Koy Thomson

Koy Thomson briefly described his background (20 years in global environment and social justice work), and then went on to describe his vision for the LCC. He believes the LCC has the potential to be an organisation of environmental change and social movement. The membership could be politically powerful and there was huge potential for working together.

He wants to learn from local cycling groups such as Southwark Cyclists about who they work with and why, and is interested in what cycling can do to empower people and change lives. He would like local groups to exchange ideas and views with each other. In particular, he wants the LCC to agree a list of issues that will help encourage cycling and can be achieved quickly. One such issue mentioned by a Southwark Cyclists attendee was the provision of more secure cycle parking, and the need to update the LCC guidelines on cycle parking in office, residential and other developments. It was noted that Barry Mason was writing an article for the LCC magazine on cycle parking.

Koy wants to strengthen the policy, research capacity, marketing, and brand of the LCC. He also wants the LCC to provide better technical support to local groups, and help local groups realise their potential.

The recent "Open Space" meetings, to which all LCC members had been invited, had resulted in 92 items (with varying degrees of support) that would be considered in shaping the LCC's next five years.

The meeting was impressed with Koy's enthusiasm and vision. He was thanked for a very articulate and inspirational discussion, and invited to meet with Southwark Cyclists again in about six months. Koy then left the meeting for another cycling engagement.

The Annual General Meeting of the LCC is at City Hall (close to the south side of Tower Bridge) on Tuesday 16 October.

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting on 8 August 2007 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the above meeting were approved.

### 3. Southwark Cycle Security Group

The main issues from the last meeting of the Security Group on 11 September were:

1. Over the two weeks to 2 September 2007, 30 bicycles were stolen in Southwark. Of these, 11 thefts were in SE1 and 7 were in SE15 (Peckham). Peckham Square is a

problem area. 10 of the 30 bikes were stolen very soon after being left. There were two arrests for cycle theft over this period. Arrests in July and August were 6 and 4 respectively.

2. The number of cycle thefts in Southwark in July and August 2007 was about 44% down on the same period in 2006. For 2007 to date, the number of cycle thefts in Southwark is down by 22% relative to 2006, despite a significant increase in the number of bikes on the road.
3. Southwark Police have yet to purchase a Sting Bike.
4. In conjunction with Southwark Cyclists, Better Bankside has produced a leaflet that will be attached to bikes left in public places, distributed to major Bankside businesses, and distributed to student locations. The leaflet advises on how a bicycle should be locked, and includes a voucher for 30% off cycle locks of £40 or more at On Your Bike and Evans Cycles in Tooley Street.
5. John Blewett of the Safer Southwark Partnership reviews all Southwark planning applications for the security of cycle parking, and a recommendation will be made that all London boroughs should do this. No check is currently made regarding the adequacy of cycle parking in new planning applications.
6. A Safer Neighbourhood team has visited Decathlon in Surrey Quays to advise on improving cycle Security.
7. There is currently no requirement for cycle training at schools to include advice on how to lock a bicycle securely. Southwark Council will write to National Cycle Standards to ask that this be an automatic part of cycle training. Barry Mason will also write. It was noted that Cycle Training UK has been used for Southwark Cyclists projects, and they emphasise the importance of secure locking.
8. A pilot program of cycle training is to take place at primary schools in the Riverside Ward, and this will include cycle security.

#### 4. Herne Hill Velodrome

Barry and Alastair were still pressing for further investment in the Velodrome, and for it to be used to encourage cycling in schools. **Action Barry Mason/Alastair Hanton**

#### 5. Connect2

The first meeting of the Steering Group had been held in the week commencing 20 August, with Alastair and Barry attending. The scheme will make use of the disused Senegal rail bridge and former track beds to provide a largely traffic-free connection between Rotherhithe New Road in Southwark and Surrey Canal Road in Lewisham. It will give people better access to South Bermondsey Station and will improve numerous north-south and east-west journeys by foot or bicycle. It will also be the core for safe routes in the Bermondsey area being created by Sustrans. The cost is expected to be about £1 million. **Action Barry Mason/Alastair Hanton**

Connect2 is one of 70 Sustrans projects throughout the UK for which Sustrans will be competing for lottery funding (to be decided by TV voting) in December. Six other projects will be competing for this funding.

## 6. Southwark Community Games and Cycling

This is a program of multi-sport activities (usually each July and August) for young people aged 8 to 16 but has not previously included cycling. Southwark Cyclists has been asked to put forward proposals for including cycling in the 2008 event. Local cycling facilities (Burgess Park Bike Track, Bird in Bush BMX Track, Herne Hill Velodrome etc) could possibly be used to mirror Olympic cycling events. **Action Barry Mason**

## 7. Better Bankside Autumn Bikefest

Better Bankside (an organisation that is supported by 70 local companies) had engaged Southwark Cyclists for a series of events commencing Thursday, 20 September (in Mobility Week) for staff at eight major Southwark employers. Better Bankside were sponsoring this, but CTUK would be helping with the Bikefest events and had obtained sponsorship of £2000 from Southwark Primary Care Trust. Events will include Dr Bike sessions, buddy trips, after-worker rides and one-to-one training. The total time to be spent on these events was 275 hours (193 funded hours, plus 82 non-chargeable hours from Southwark Cyclists). **Action Barry Mason**

## 8. "Connected Southwark" (for better cycling and walking)

This has been mentioned before and is the title of a manifesto where the basic concept is to improve walking and cycling routes between town centres, by making the routes safer (e.g. wide cycle lanes) and more attractive. The manifesto is available on the Southwark Cyclists website. It has been produced by Southwark Living Streets with comments from, and the support of, Southwark Cyclists. Senior Southwark officers are keen to move this project forward, and at a recent meeting it was agreed that each of the eight Southwark Councils should pay £3000 towards a feasibility study. The initial routes being considered for improvement were: from Peckham to Camberwell; Blackfriars Road; Southwark Bridge Road. **Action Barry Mason/Alastair Hanton/Ann Warren**

## 9. Southwark Cyclists Logo and Website

Kit reported he had received only one response to his invitation to the Southwark Cyclists Yahoo group for suggestions on redesigning the Southwark Cyclists logo. It was agreed that this be put on hold for now, and that the focus should be on reducing the amount of work needed to maintain and update the website. Richard said he had some ideas here. It was hoped that proposals could be put to the November meeting on the required level of expenditure. Consideration would be given to approaching Better Bankside and the eight companies being targeted for the Better Bankside Bikefest to see if they would be prepared to sponsor the Southwark Cyclists website. **Action Richard Ellery/Kit Reynolds/Ten**

## 10. Redevelopment of Sporting Facilities in Southwark Park

As previously reported, two schemes had been submitted to the Council. The one by Fisher Athletic was felt to be totally inappropriate, and to the serious detriment of the Park. This was to have been discussed at the Friends meeting in the Cafe Gallery, Southwark Park, on 4 September but would now be discussed at the following meeting. All meetings of the Friends of Southwark Park are open to the public and dates are displayed on notice boards in Southwark Park. **Action Barry Mason**

## 11. Planning

As previously reported, recent revisions to the minimum cycle parking standards in the Southwark Unitary Development Plan had been derived from guidelines prepared by

Transport for London, but seemed to Southwark Cyclists to be woefully inadequate. Barry is doggedly pursuing this issue, and it is also on the radar of the Southwark Cycle Security Group. Ray was also writing to Southwark Council regarding inadequate cycle parking provision in new and existing developments. **Action Barry Mason/Ray Welsh**

A Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was currently being prepared, and consultation on this was expected to take place towards the end of 2007. The Better Bankside Travel Survey will be launched shortly, and will be a further useful source of data to support future cycle parking policies.

The meeting considered a table Ray had produced on the cycle parking provision of the big four supermarkets, plus Waitrose. Waitrose and Sainsbury understand the issues, but leave green measures to local managers and there is no systematic monitoring. Tesco seemed to be the worst of all, as it appeared their corporate policy was to have no travel plans unless forced by local planners. This was all the more surprising as Tesco had trumpeted teaming up with the University of Manchester in a £25 million investment that "will bring together the world's leading experts to tackle climate change and help deliver a revolution in green consumption".

Ray suggested a number of ways forward, including talking to Sainsbury to see if they would be interested in a pilot scheme for cycle training packaged with cycle parking. Alex and Gwen offered to help if assistance was required here. **Action Ray Welsh/Gwen Bondi/Alex Crawford**

## 12. Campaigns

Alex had been out of action following a serious cycling accident. There was nothing to report at the present time. **Action Alex Crawford**

## 13. Odessa Youth Club

Barry had devised an excellent series of events for the Odessa Youth Club, involving Dr Bike surgeries, professional trainers and local rides. However, there had been problems in working with the Youth Club management, and the project would now switch to Time and Talents, and Beade House. These are two local charities whose activities include youth work.

## 14. Bikes for Cobourg Primary School

As previously reported, £1000 of unrestricted Southwark Cyclists funds had been used to provide Cobourg School with a fleet of bikes (at a heavily discounted price) when a teacher there (an enthusiastic cyclist himself) had failed to obtain funding despite having approached 60 other potential sources of finance, including Southwark Council. The teacher concerned, James Cowley, had now written thanking Southwark Cyclists for this donation which had allowed the school to purchase 12 "Blizzard" BMX bikes. This had enabled 12 children to complete a cycling competency course at the school. More proficiency courses were in the pipeline. Work had almost finished to convert an old toilet block at the school into a cycle shed and it was hoped to purchase more bicycles, locks, helmets etc. The school was very keen to encourage cycling, and children who couldn't afford a bicycle had access to the school stock. The ultimate goal is to have 30 bikes, which would be enough for a full class size.

## 15. Grant Applications

On behalf of Southwark Cyclists, Barry had submitted six projects for "Cleaner Greener Safer" funding, where each of Southwark's eight community councils had about £300,000 to allocate by the end of October. The outcome of these submissions was awaited. **Action Barry Mason**

A grant application to LCC for £5,000 had been successful and Barry was in discussion with the Asylum Seekers Forum to provide cycle training and rides. He would soon be asking Southwark Cyclists for help on this. **Action Barry Mason**

## 16. Hovis London Freewheel Cycle Ride on Sunday 23 September

This will be the second (after the Tour de France) major cycling event of 2007 (see [www.londonfreewheel.com](http://www.londonfreewheel.com)). Barry would be leading a feeder ride from London Bridge to Peckham Rye (one of the six London hubs), from where groups of cyclists would be released on a predetermined route to the Freewheel Festival in St James's Park.

## 17. On Your Bike

The next Cycle Maintenance Course at On Your Bike will start on 25 September, and will run for three weeks with 10 participants.

The On Your Bike 250-space cycle parking facility at London Bridge was now expected to open in December 2007. A local bank had already reserved 100 spaces, and it is expected that corporates will block book 200 spaces before the facility even opens.

## 18. Southwark Cyclists Ceilidh

This had lost money last year, and it was agreed there would be no Ceilidh this year.

## 19. Herne Hill Junction Regeneration Project

A leaflet on the proposed redesign of the junction was tabled. This was a major project involving a new pedestrian area at the end of Railton Road, a large pedestrian island, and enhancement to the entrance to Brockwell Park. Forward cycle stop-lines will be used throughout, and there will also be easier access for cyclists from Norwood Road into Dulwich Road.

## 20. Financial Report

Unrestricted funds amounted to approximately £2,000. This is money that is not already earmarked for various projects.

## 21. Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 October -- Annual Meeting. 7pm at the usual location for monthly meetings: Blackfriars Settlement, 1-5 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RB. To finish by 8:30pm and be followed by dinner at Tas in Borough High Street.

## 22. Depart for The Crown on Blackfriars Road

There being no further business the meeting was closed.